

From: Thomas Allger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 7:53am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam, I feel that the Microsoft settlement is unfair to the taxpayers and the corporations of the U.S. To allow a monopolist such as Microsoft to have complete control over its own marketplace is simply wrong.

A free market economy does not exist merely to allow everyone to do as they please. A free market economy requires the rule of law to allow freedom of entrance and exit to markets. It requires transparency of information, something which the current settlement does not require of Microsoft.

As a practical matter, the government's fumbling has allowed Microsoft to establish a monopoly over a segment of the economy that is crucial not only to the economy as a whole, but to national security. If they were at least competent at writing software, we wouldn't have the current level of insecurity with respect to computer security.

Not only has the government allowed its antitrust laws to be violated, it has even allowed them to be violated by a company whose software is dangerous. And then to allow this company to lie in a federal court and construct a settlement with no teeth after the company has been convicted leads one to suspect there is collusion between Microsoft and the government. And it is your fault.

The settlement should at the very least break Microsoft up so that it can no longer threaten the software industry. Its officers should held in contempt charges before U.S. courts for lying to a federal court.

The Justice dept has become a laughing stock among those of us familiar with technology and not in thrall to Microsoft, and that again is your fault.

You ought to be ashamed of yourselves, the rest of the technology industry certainly is.